MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Quarterly Update
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SWCP STAFF UPDATE

Over the last year there have been several staffing changes including some new additions to our team. Logan Derifield and John Lehman joined the program office staff as district coordinators for the northeast and east central regions of the state.

Logan earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural business with a minor in agronomy from Iowa State University in 2020. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and spending time with family and friends. Logan, his fiancé Hailey and their two Labrador retrievers (Grizzly and Bear) join us from northeastern Iowa.

John earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Lincoln University in 2012. Prior to joining the Soil and Water Conservation Program, John spent time with both the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Environmental Remediation Program. He and his wife Tiffany, along with their two boys, help manage his family's cow-calf operation west of Jefferson City.

In addition to the new hires, some familiar faces have transitioned into new roles: Most notably the program director's position, which was filled by Jim Plassmeyer. Jim has been with the program for more than 25 years. Most recently, he held the title of Environmental Program Manager. He has a bachelor's degree in animal sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is also a graduate of the Agriculture Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) and the Department of Natural Resources Leadership Ladder program. When he's not busy leading the SWCP, Jim enjoys spending time with family, hunting, fishing and running his family's Century Farm.

Logan Derifiel

John Lehman

Jim Plassmeyer

Josh Poynor

Jim's vacant Environmental Program Manager position was filled by Josh Poynor. Josh has been with the department for 20 years. He is a graduate of Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy. He is also a graduate of the Agriculture Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) and a current student of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Leadership Institute programs. In his spare time Josh enjoys spending time on his cow/calf operation, being outdoors and spending time with his family including chasing his twin daughters.

TRIMBLE UNITS

The program office still has retired NRCS Trimble units available for district use. These consist of the Trimble GNSS GPS Receiver, two Li-Ion, 2.6Ah, 7.4V 19.2Wh batteries with charger, 6-inch whip antenna, Trimble TSC3 Data Controller with QWERTY keypad, soft carrying case, USB data cable, pole clamp, Q/R,11/4\", claw, charger.

Additional items that are needed, but not provided with the units are eligible expenses from the 04 or 48 funds. While the unit is in the possession of the Soil and Water Conservation District, the district will be responsible for providing any needed software upgrades, replacement batteries or supplies. Once the unit is no longer needed or becomes obsolete, the district must return the survey units back to the program office.

Macon Area Meeting

RCPP leverages partnership agreements to provide funding to assist agriculture producers in achieving conservation goals

AREA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Area meetings were held in person this year. Scott Edwards, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist, provided information on how NRCS receives funding and sets its priorities each year. In addition, he explained the CART process and why it is needed and what his vision is for training and staffing in the future. Jim Plassmeyer, Soil and Water Conservation Program Director, provided updates on cost share, the increase in tax revenues and updates that have been made to several cost share practices. To view the presentations in more detail please see the Soil and Water Program intranet page.

MISSOURI TARGETED CONSERVATION RCPP

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) leverages partnership agreements to provide funding to assist agriculture producers in achieving conservation goals. Funding comes from a combination of the Farm Bill and matching funds

from partners. This includes The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which filters down to programs such as The Soil and Water Conservation Program and eventually to local soil and water conservation districts who provide technical and financial assistance to landowners.

The RCPP program, titled Missouri Targeted Conservation, has the goal to identify areas within targeted watersheds where conservation practices can provide the most cost effective loss reductions for sediment, nutrients and pathogens into our bodies of water. *"RCPP is a unique program that leverages non-federal investments brought by conservation partners to accelerate conservation in selected project areas,"* said Missouri NRCS State Conservationist Scott Edwards. *"This approach helps us maximize the use of our collective resources to address locally identified concerns.*

During the first year of this RCPP program there was a budget of $532,000; $478,000 of which was obligated in contracts. The targeted conservation area originally included three watersheds; the Blackwater, Cahokia-Joachim, and South Fork Salt. This year the project has been expanded to include the Little Osage and Thompson watersheds. The budget for the 2023 year is $709,333.

Landowners in any of the five listed watersheds are currently eligible to apply for assistance through the RCPP program. The application process is a continuous sign up and applications can be obtained through NRCS offices. Applicants who would like to be considered for this year's available funds must apply by April 29, 2023.